

Natural Resources Conservation Service CONSERVATION

**Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool** 

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## CSP-2017-1\_MT - SGI\_Range

## **Soil Erosion**

#### **Sheet and Rill Erosion**

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	iteria Met
Screening level: State established criteria. Assessment level: RHA - soil site stability - slight to moderate or less OR Rangeland Planned Trend is positive	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	est Met
Plant cover controls active erosion (shallow <1 foot deep rills/gullies) and runoff from normal rain events. Litter and soil stay in place during normal rain events.	Yes	No 🗌
Wind Erosion		
Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	iteria Met
Screening level: State established criteria. Assessment level: RHA - soil site stability - slight to moderate or less OR Rangeland Planned Trend is positive	Yes	No 🗌
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	est Met
Plant cover controls wind erosion. No blow outs, deposition along fence lines, or on the leeward side of objects is present.	Yes	No



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## **Classic Gully Erosion**

	Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crite</b>	eria Met
	Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	Plant cover controls active erosion (gullies <1 foot deep).	Yes	No
<u>Str</u>	reambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	Current plant cover controls active stream bank erosion.	Yes	No



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## **Soil Quality Degradation**

## **Organic Matter Depletion**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Me	
	Screening level: Soil organic matter depletion is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil organic matter depletion. Assessment level: The RHA - soil site stability is slight to moderate or less AND the RHA - biotic integrity attribute rating is slight to moderate departure or less, OR Rangeland Planned Trend is positive.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	est Met
	Plants growing are expected, desired, and suited to the site.	Yes	No 🗌
Co	ompaction		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: The RHA - soil site stability is slight to moderate or less OR compaction is managed to meet client's production and management objectives.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	est Met
	Soils are not compacted past a point that limits plant root depth and growth.	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Water Quality Degradation**

#### **Pesticides in Surface Water**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria	
	Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	If pesticides are applied, they are applied according to label and an environmental risk screening tool is utilized (such as WIN-PST).	Yes	No
<u>Pe</u>	sticides in Ground Water		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met



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## **Nutrients in Surface Water**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria N	
	Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	est Met
	Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes	No
<u>Nι</u>	<u>itrients in Ground Water</u>		
	Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crit</b>	eria Met
	Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	est Met
	When sinkholes are present in karst regions, livestock utilization of immediate sinkhole watershed area is managed to avoid nutrient additions to groundwater.	Yes	No



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# Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes	No
troleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported t	to Surface Wa	<u>ater</u>
Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to surface water.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation Te	st Met
The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable	Yes	No 🗌
	Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.  Evaluation Tests  Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas  Evoleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to the Planning Criteria  Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to surface water.  Evaluation Tests  The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch,	Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.  Evaluation Tests  Evaluation Tests  Evaluation Tests  Evaluation Tests  Final Planning Criteria  Planning Criteria  Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to surface water.  Evaluation Tests  Evaluation Tests  Evaluation Tests  Final Planning Criteria  Planning Criteria  Yes  Planning Criteria  Yes  The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch,



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## Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Ground Water

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to groundwater.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation Te	est Met
	The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable place designed to provide secondary containment if the primary means were to fail.	Yes	No
<u>Ex</u>	ccessive Sediment in Surface Water		
	Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crit</b>	eria Met
	Screening level: There are no untreated sources of erosion AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: The RHA - hydrologic function attribute - is slight to moderate or less AND the SVAP2 - bank condition is >= 5.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation Te	est Met
	Plant cover controls active erosion (shallow <1 foot deep rills/gullies) and runoff from normal rain events. Litter and soil stay in place during normal rain events.	Yes	No



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## **Elevated Water Temperature**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Water courses on or adjacent to the site are not designated by a State Agency as a temperature impairment OR water course temperature is not a client concern. Assessment level: The SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is >= 5 AND the SVAP2 - riparian area quantity quality element score is >= 5 AND the SVAP2 - canopy cover element score is >= 6, OR existing conservation practices are in place to address water temperature.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Surface water temperatures in perennial streams do not limit use for the intended purposes.	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Air Quality Impacts**

#### **Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors**

Planning Criteria		Planning Cr	iteria Met
agricultural source PM complaints of emission chemical drift have not Prescribed Burn is combinding agents, Engine applied, Fertilization (1)	ities are not present that contribute to for PM precursor emissions AND episodes or as of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or a occurred. PM producing activity examples are ducted, Travel ways unpaved or untreated with as (combustion source), Tillage, Pesticides are manure/ commercial), CAFO/manure ment level: PM and PM Precursor emmissions lient objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>		Evaluation 7	Test Met
If prescribed burning is in the burn plan are fol	s employed, the smoke management objectives lowed.	Yes	No 🗌
	s implemented, a prescribed burn plan has been d by competent, trained fire personnel.	Yes	No
<b>Emission of Greenhou</b>	ise Gases (GHGs)		
Planning Criteria		Planning Cr	iteria Met
emissions. GHG produ Fertilization(manure/co Engines (combustion s	ommercial), CAFO/manure management, ource), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>		Evaluation 7	Test Met
Forage Supply and Der	mand Balance is achieved.	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Degraded Plant Condition**

## **Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health**

Planning Criteria		Planning Criteria Met	
	Assessment level: Vegetation meet similarity index or range condition score of 60 or greater for desired plant community and has a positive trend OR RHA - biotic integrity attribute rating - is slight to moderate departure or less.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	est Met
	When prescribed burning is needed and utilized, a prescribed burn plan has been developed and followed by competent, trained fire personnel.	Yes	No
	Plant yield, vigor, and quality are as expected.	Yes	No 🗌
<u>In</u>	adequate Structure and Composition		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Plant communities support the intended land use and desired ecological functions. Assessment level: Plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions OR the RHA - biotic integrity attribute rating is slight to moderate departure or less OR vegetation meet similarity index of 60 or greater for desired plant community and has a positive trend.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	Plants growing are expected, desired, and suited to the site.	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Excessive Plant Pest Pressure**

Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Criteria Met</b>	
Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation 7	Γest Met
The current plants provide the desired plant community for the site.	Yes	No
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation		
Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	riteria Met
Screening level: Wildfire hazards is not a concern. Assessment level: Fuel loads and fuel ladders are managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives.	Yes	No 🗌
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation 7	Γest Met
Active management occurs to avoid too much buildup of likely wildfire fuels.	Yes	No



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## <u>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat</u>

## **Inadequate Habitat - Food**

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	iteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No	
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation T</b>	Cest Met	
The land adjacent to a waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or 2.5 times channel width (for streams/rivers), whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No	
The plant cover provides cover and food for the chosen wildlife	Yes 🗍	No 🗌	



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## **Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter**

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	teria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation T</b>	est Met
The stream(s) have: - a natural, unaltered configuration, with minimal channel straightening, dredging, or bank alteration by armoring with rip-rap or other non-natural materials, - stable banks with limited erosion or bank failure, and - human uses and/or grazing levels that do not negatively impact bank condition.	Yes	No
The pond/lake, which supports a natural or planted fish population, is managed: -to exclude livestock, -to control nuisance species and undesirable aquatic vegetation controlled, -to comply with state and local regulations when stocking the pond, AND -using a buffer zone of diverse, natural plant cover at least 35 feet wide.	Yes	No
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat for the benefit of wildlife species.	Yes	No
Livestock access to streams is limited to short periods of time and smaller pastures where feasible	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Inadequate Habitat - Water**

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	teria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is $>= 0.5$ AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is $>= 7$ , OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR water is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Water for habitat is at the right height, depth and time of year for wildlife species of concern.	Yes	No
Watering facilities have escape ramps installed. The water surface can be safely accessed.	Yes	No



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## **Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)**

Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation To</b>	est Met
Existing fences allow wildlife movement without harm.	Yes	No 🗌
The land adjacent to a waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or 2.5 times channel width (for streams/rivers), whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No
In-stream structures (dam, diversion structure, bridge, culvert, low-water stream crossing, etc.) allow for the upstream/downstream movement of fish and other aquatic animals throughout most of the year.	Yes	No
People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.	Yes	No
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌



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## **Livestock Production Limitation**

## **Inadequate Feed and Forage**

	Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Crite</b>	eria Met
	Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	Plant cover includes desired plants that are sufficient for the dietary needs and production goals of the livestock.	Yes	No
In	adequate Shelter		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives.	Yes	No
		<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Tes</b>	st Met
	Evaluation Tests  Livestock have adequate shelter.	Yes	st Met
In			
In	Livestock have adequate shelter.		No 🗌
<u>In:</u>	Livestock have adequate shelter.  adequate Water	Yes	No 🗌
<u>In:</u>	Livestock have adequate shelter.  adequate Water  Planning Criteria  Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal	Yes	No  eria Met  No